I. GENERAL

The following are general trail guidelines applicable to all proposed trails.

A. To the maximum extent feasible, trails should be sited and designed to keep hikers, bicyclists and equestrians on the cleared pathways, to minimize impacts to sensitive habitat areas and environmental resources, and to avoid or minimize erosion impacts and conflicts with surrounding land uses.

B. As part of the trail implementation process, County Parks Department should evaluate a future trail's ability to accommodate multiple-use on proposed County trails. Potential modifications to the County's multiple-use trail policy should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

C. Maps depicting future trails should include a statement expressing "Trail routes shown as proposed trails are not open for public use until County acquires public access rights."

D. County Parks should monitor trails for potential impacts such as vandalism, impacts to archaeological/historical sites, intensity of use, erosion, etc., and when/where necessary, recommend temporary trail closures to alleviate or remedy the problem.

E. Trails should be sited so as to utilize existing roads and trails as much as possible, except where the trail may conflict with surrounding land uses and environmentally sensitive areas.

F. Trail width shall be consistent with County Park Department standards. Typical trail width ranges between 4-6 feet, except where intended trail uses and physical/ environmental constraints of the trail corridor deem it infeasible and/or inappropriate. Then a trail width less than 4-6 feet would be acceptable.

II. BIOLOGICAL CONCERNS

A. Trails should be sited to minimize damage to riparian areas while allowing some public access to these resources. Measures should include locating the majority of trail corridors outside riparian areas, while occasionally bringing trails into contact with streams for public enjoyment. All trail construction should minimize removal of riparian vegetation and utilize natural features and/or lateral fencing to discourage public access to sections of streams not directly accessed by trails.

B. To the greatest extent feasible, the number of creek crossings should be limited in order to protect stream/riparian resources.

C. (*INLAND*) Fences constructed along trail corridors should allow for wildlife movement, to the greatest extent feasible.

(*COASTAL*) Fences constructed along trail corridors should allow for wildlife movement.

D. Both trail siting and maintenance should be conducted to minimize introduction and proliferation of exotic weedy plants.

III. AGRICULTURAL CONCERNS

A. (*INLAND*) Where appropriate (e.g., adjacent to existing agricultural operations, buildings, residences, etc.), the County should construct fencing between the trail and private land uses. County Parks shall determine on a case-by-case basis appropriate fencing design and type. The County should consider landowner input on fence design. To the greatest extent feasible, fencing should not hinder the natural movement and migration of animals and should be aesthetically pleasing.

(*COASTAL*) Where appropriate (e.g., adjacent to existing agricultural operations, buildings, residences, etc.), the County should construct fencing between the trail and private land uses. County Parks shall determine on a case-by-case basis appropriate fencing design and type. The County should consider landowner input on fence design. Fencing shall not hinder the safety or the natural movement and migration of animals and should be aesthetically pleasing.

B. Where trails bisect private land, locked gates should be installed at appropriate intervals to allow the landowner to cross the trail easement from one side of the property to the other.

C. Trails should be located away from cultivated agriculture and should be sited to avoid bisecting existing agricultural operations, to the greatest extent feasible.

IV. LAND USE COMPATIBILITY CONCERNS

A. Trails should be sited and designed to avoid significant environmental resources and to minimize user conflicts with surrounding land uses, to the maximum extent feasible. This may involve re-alignment of the trail corridor, signage, fencing, and/or installation of access control barriers in certain sensitive areas.

B. Where feasible, trails should be sited a minimum of 100 feet from existing structures, and utilize topography and vegetative barriers to buffer surrounding residences from potential privacy impacts.

C. Where feasible, trails should be sited along parcel boundaries in an effort to minimize land use conflicts.

V. ACCESS CONTROL

These trail guidelines are intended to protect surrounding land uses and environmentally sensitive areas, while providing a safe, enjoyable experience for the trail user. Many of the following access control guidelines are particularly relevant in siting proposed trails to avoid potential agricultural impacts.

A. Where appropriate, trailhead parking areas should be pursued by the County at logical points to provide parking areas for vehicles and turning areas for horse trailers without

blocking emergency vehicle or residents' access to and from private lands. Such trailhead parking should be sited and designed to minimize disruption to existing neighborhoods.

B. (*INLAND*) Where appropriate, vehicle barriers (e.g., steel access gates) should be constructed at trailheads to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access, while allowing hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and authorized motor vehicles to access the trail. Internal access control barriers (i.e., any combination of steel gates, chain link or barbed wire fence may be necessary) should also be installed along trails at appropriate "choke points" (e.g., placement of barriers utilizing natural topography and/or trail user decision points) in order to keep trail users on the established trail route and prevent trespass and/or further entry into private property and/or environmentally sensitive areas.

(*COASTAL*) Vehicle barriers (e.g., steel access gates) should be constructed at trailheads to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access, while allowing hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and authorized motor vehicles for emergency, maintenance, or to provide access to private in-holdings to access the trail. Internal access control barriers (i.e., any combination of steel gates, chain link or barbed wire fence may be necessary) should also be installed along trails at appropriate "choke points" (e.g., placement of barriers utilizing natural topography and/or trail user decision points) in order to keep trail users on the established trail route and prevent trespass and/or further entry into private property and/or environmentally sensitive areas. Trails may be designed for bicycle use where resource damage such as loss of vegetation or increased erosion would not result. Where evidence that authorized bicycle use is damaging resources, future use by bicycles may thereafter be temporarily or permanently prohibited.

C. (*INLAND*) Before the County permits public use of any acquired trail right-of-way, adequate fencing and other precautions should be installed to prevent vandalism to neighboring properties and appropriate trailheads should be acquired and constructed to provide for the public safety.

(*COASTAL*) Before the County permits public use of any acquired trail right-of-way, approved fencing consistent with resource protection and other precautions (such as signage) should be installed to prevent vandalism to neighboring properties and appropriate trailheads should be acquired and constructed to provide for the public safety.

D. Appropriate trail signage should be placed at all access points, and along the trail corridor. Signs should state when entering/leaving public or private property, no trespassing, and to remain on the established trail route (especially where the trail easement crosses private land). Trailheads should be marked with low-key identification signs that also post regulations, prohibited uses, and trail user guidelines. Educational and trail etiquette signs should also be displayed at strategic locations along a trail corridor.

VI. ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORIC CONCERNS

Archaeological and historic sites are non-renewable resources which are vulnerable to trail construction and use. The following guidelines are intended to aid in the siting of potential trail corridors in order to avoid disturbances to important resources.

A. Trails should be sited and designed to avoid impacts to significant cultural, archaeological, and historical resources to the maximum extent feasible. This may involve re-alignment of the trail corridor, signage, fencing, and/or installation of access control barriers in certain sensitive areas.

B. A Phase I archaeological survey may be required prior to implementing proposed trail corridors.

VII. GUIDELINES FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE/CONSTRUCTION

A. Wherever possible, trails should be sited to avoid highly erosive soils and be constructed parallel to the slope contours with drainage directed off the trail to minimize soil erosion. Where the trail must go directly down the slope, a course of water bars (stone, wooden or jute meshing) should be imbedded perpendicular to the trail. This treatment should be implemented where necessary to minimize the effects of erosion.

B. The County should utilize the USFS standards for rural trail maintenance, as identified in the *USFS Trail Handbook* on a case-by-case basis.

C. County Public Works shall consult with County Park Department prior to issuing any encroachment permits along road shoulders with current or proposed trails.

D. County Park Department shall actively pursue removal of any unauthorized structures, fences, or other obstructions in dedicated easements, as set forth in Chapter 26 of the County Code.